American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
July 30, 1937–October 5, 1937

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Tsingtao
July 30.1937

Dearest Mumsie:

Just a note this a.m. Last mts
your letter came - after the 4th -
my you did have a glorious fourth
My! it is surely heart reding that the
country is so wet! That may turn a
tide against it! So glad the boys
had such a nice time up on the farm
I expect they did have a big feast. I
remember how we used to love to go to
Litchi's & Whitmore's for the harvest!
I remember the loaded tables - I
realize now the work involved but
then only the big tables of chicken +
food + fun of riding on the hay!
Our papers have little about the
strikes in the U.S. The papers these days
are full of our Eastern situation
& much European news as our
paper is a British one! They have
been exciting these days.
So glad you've the lovely magnolia
& Do hope Clyde will get the cemetery
cleaned up - a road made +

31 Ruth did not go so I've gone on helping here. There are four more guests there yet - but will be leaving tomorrow. Then Ruth will get her children back home, Martha is coming to Huck on Saturday (Tues) I mean - hope she'll get a nice rest - I'll go out too I plan now.

We're all thru with our conferences. I had 200 delegates here for one. very fine speakers & people came from so many places outside our field. A hang-over from last year all-provincial one at Chowtun. I had one meal of guests (13) all at once - a couple of them of 6 6 men & about as many women another day. That with house, pageants etc - that made days full at least.

a sign post here & there so it can be found! That is good hope he will do it! Nice you had a ride with Horner's to Portland.

We've had about five days of heat here — great heat — We've had a real tryout of our attic rooms in the heat! Our guests were comfy in the 2nd floor — we were for part of the time but these last days have surely made it sweltering up there in daytime. They went last evening & we had a comfy night back down on 2nd floor - It was very nice to be able-to share with them the Master's provision for our needs here. They did enjoy it too. We've had so much graciois hospitality from others that I was glad to repay a bit — to receive the Master here in the person of his messengers!

I hope my air-mail letter did not startle you! I should have told you before that I might write one some day!
My letters had been slow & I didn't want you to worry!
Our trouble in North China may be in your papers. We are all quiet & safe here so far. If we need to be protected we will be so
you must just surrender again all to him. Whether by life or death to be well-pleasing to Him. That is the one thing that is of concern. Of course if the war gets worse & more dangerous one must decide what is one's immediate duty —
From the first it is been

5] my aim to try to keep in the center of His will & let come what may. What He permits- He will do it for His glory — It is all in the initial surrender of myself, of you Mumsie mine of life itself. I surely hope that all of you would take the same attitude that no blame be put on anyone or country for whatever might ever be — These days nor seek any returns make one realize life + what in it is of value. Things matter fade away in value but still one thinks of some favorite things one would hate to give up. That is the way the world natter clings to one. I have a blue vase + a few pictures I'd hate to lose — the vase that I bought

7] the suffering hearts of the Japanese who do not approve - Kagawa + others! A officer committed suicide in north because he did not approve. The rich that have won't wanted troops landed. The world affairs going on — I wonder if it isn't nearing the time for Christ's coming back. Surely we must not count our life dear but just witnessing for Him + helping to prepare for it. How wonderful it will be when He comes to right all of the wrongs in the world! How infinitely wonderful He is! George Müller said — God is an infinitely lovely Being". Just that is wonderful thought like a great fragrance in the

6.| rather playing to sell it to
Hitler — It is pretty little
of one after all to be thinking in
terms of votes + pictures when
two countries may be locked
in war — with suffering hate
+ murder in hearts! My! Japan
will have to answer for a big
hatred she has aroused in Chris
heart to the last child
almost! It is no small account to
answer for. Today's charge that
she is fighting communism in
Sintsin is a play for world
sympathy especially that of
Germany + Italy — but surely
she can't dupe the world!
The propaganda over radio
last night from Tokyo was
F
just absurd!
I'm sure if anyone is arrogant
she is! It is too bad too

heart & oh how much all of
the ugliness of world & people's
hearts & greed & pride & un-
forgiving spirits of folks
must just first hurt His heart
& how the greed & fighting of
nations must just hurt to the
quick. We're hurt for China
these days & we feel it it must
be all the harder for Him —

By Lonny mine, I'll be
mailing this on as quick
as getting a letter. Much
much love to all of you
my dear ones & do just
rest your heart in Him.
We are all in His Love
& Care —

Bye dearest ones

Irene

"DEAR FRIENDS"

ART not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? . . . When evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand in thy presence, and cry unto thee in our affliction, and thou wilt hear and help." II Chronicles 20:8-9.

THE WINTER of 1936 and 37 was cold in Ichowfu. This was to be expected for the seas to the north of the Shantung promontory were frozen; even the bay at Chefoo was unnavigable during the coldest days. SPRING was tardy and self-consciously tried to make up for it in an extravagance of greenery and flowered luxuriance. In May the final steps were taken in the settling of an old land boundary difference with neighbor Lu; And by the end of June station members were leaving for the summer. SUMMER emerged unsteadily from it's warm June chrysalis, bringing floods to all of southern Shantung, and war over north China and Shanghai. FALL found station members returning to Shantung. Miss Small, arriving from America in the early part of September took up a vigil in Tsingtao awaiting permission from Consular and Mission authorities to go into Ichowfu. When advised that the trip was impossible she went to Peiping to be with her sister and to work in that station. Miss Hand and the Wilsons returning from the war area of Peiping settled in Chefoo; and the former with Mr. Wilson set out for Ichowfu in October. Mr. Reinhard, secretary for the Bible Union of China, joined them in November. WINTER brought the war to Shantung: December the first bombing of Ichowfu: January the first attack. In February, Miss Winslett and Dr. Harding arrived. In March the war reached Ichowfu, culminating April 19th, two days after Easter, in the fall of the city. Then followed death, fire, famine, and disease. In May Mr. Wilson drove to Tsingtao. The 3rd of June Miss Small, and Mr. Woodberry reached Ichow. — But beginning with the events of November let us tell in detail to the glory of Him who kept and blessed.

* * *

FALL was a time of heart searching among the Christians, and transformation of the city. The Christians knew not what was in store for them but they had heard of Peiping, Tientsin and Shanghai. The city was changed from a normal, inland center of business and culture to a great military camp feverishly pushing preparations for the inevitable attack from the north. Students gathered from northern cities to carry on their studies.

Presbytery in November was a meeting of humbled pastors and elders. The trouble-fought Ishui church, of their own accord elected new elders and deacons (prayer victory!) A team of two joyously victorious young women started classes, of one month terms, for women in the Ishui mountains. These went on even when fighting was close at hand. The mission schools had opened with record attendance and were factories of studiousness and enthusiasm. Bibles and gospel portions showed new high sales.

WINTER—December: and with it the first real evidence that Shantung was to be in the fighting. The Yellow river was crossed; Tsinan fell; The Kiaochi R. R. was torn up; and the $300,000,000 Tsingtao Japanese factories and mills were destroyed. Ichowfu was bombed severely on Christmas day, the bombs falling only a few hundred feet from the mission. From that time on the city and mission felt the impact of death and destruction. This was the wind to blow the chaff away. The wheat was yet to fall to the ground that it might spring up and yield. Days of more severe suffering were close at hand.

On January 5th the city was threatened from the northwest. That night people fled. On the 6th, Japanese scouting parties coming down from Yenchowfu and Taian, were met at Pingyi and Mengyin. On the Mengyin highway some even filtered through the Chinese defense lines to Pancheng. 52 li north of the city. Long was to be the battle for Ichowfu, for now it was called the

"gateway to Hsuchow". Five highways from the north converged here. Only one ran on to the south — to Taierchuang and Hsuchow. Ichowfu, under it's official name "Lini", began to appear on the newspaper war maps and in press accounts of the war in Shantung.

With the opening of January, Bible classes started more in earnest. Refugees moved south from cities on the R. R. Tsingtao was occupied with out fighting on the 10th; Weihsien fell peacefully on the 11th; Chucheng was quietly occupied. The work at Ichowfu went on. Preparations were made to receive the influx of refugees. And the further concentration of troops in the city indicated that fighting was to be expected. Mr. Wilson says of this time: "By the middle of the month, despite bombings, 30-40 people attended the Bible classes morning and afternoon. Outside of this class work we were all busy preparing for the approaching siege. Little used compound gates were bricked-up; Consular notices were put on the remaining gates; American flags were stitched from native cloth; supplies of coal, grain and flour were laid in; and negotiations were started for the establishing of the neutrality of our compounds. From the Consul of Hankow word finally came that we should fly a blue-cross flag; this mark of indentification, to be displayed in adddition to the American flag, had been agreed to by the war offices in Tokio. On February 8th the city became the capitol of the Province and the former Mayor of Tsingtao, recently made governor, arrived to organize the people for the defense of the city."

It was at this time that Miss Winslett, Dr. Harding and Mr. Kepler were motored in through the "lines" by Mr. Kirk West. Dr. Harding and Mr. Woodberry had arrived from America and were in Tsingtao, but there seemed to be no humanly possible way to go out to get them. We knew, however, that God would not bring them the 9000 miles from America and leave them stranded 180 miles from the end of their journey. This was our faith on the morning of February 9th. That very evening a servant ran into the mission yard calling, "Dr. Harding has come! An auto is here!" God had wonderfully answered prayer — even more abundantly than we had expected; though Mr. Woodberry couldn't come, by reason of the fact that he had given his place in the car to Miss Winslett, the Lord gave us two in his stead, Miss Winslett to help in Ichowfu and Mr. Kepler to relieve the ladies in Yihsien. The following is a portion of Miss Winslett's log of the trip from Tsingtao:

"CHUCHENG, the morning of Feb. 9th—7:20, brakes frozen. Chip off ice . . . 7:40, flagstaff broken. Must splice . . . 8:10, river. We're up on long wooden bridge before we can see that it is broken in three places. Look for another crossing. Ken Kepler steps through ice up to knee. Bitter cold. Crossed ice so thick that it only cracked as we went over. Across! Realize the possibilities in big planks on half-destroyed bridge. (Planks 14 ft. long, weighing 120 lbs. each) Ken grabs sledge hammer and swings at first plank. Misses! Much laughter. Squared off again. Another complete miss. (His golf score is 198) He got the planks . . . 8:45, tussel up steep bank . . . 8:55, stones heaped across road, 4 ft. high and 4 ft. across. Frozen hard. Had to loose with hammer. Picked a way through . . . 9:00, bridge out, one support for bridge left. Use plank for other . . . 9:15, bridge out, detour through water." Five more bridges out in the next hour. At each one Kirk West exclaimed, "One more like this and I'm going back." He didn't turn back however and at 8:15 that evening they arrived in the mission yard in Ichowfu—20 to 30 broken bridges, three or more frozen rivers and 120 miles from Chucheng the city from which they started that morning.

February brought more bombing, intensified by the closing in of the war fronts in southern Shantung. At the end of the month there was heavy fighting at Chuhsien, the same place falling to the Japanese on the 23rd. Though shelling and burning destroyed much of the south suburb, the church and Christians were spared. From this time the fighting quickly moved south to the lines of defense around Ichowfu. Ishui fell without fighting, and the church and Christians there, those who had not fled to the hills, were spared. The bloody

days which followed were in the hills between Tangtou and Kokou on the east bank of the I river 20 miles northeast of Ichow. Hundreds of wounded were brought into the city the worst cases of which were diverted to our hospital. Of this time Mr. Wilson notes:

> "Feb. 25th: To-day there are machine-gun emplacements going in around our suburb gates. We are in the hands of Him who is able to do all things. He knows, He loves, He is able. To-night we are garrisoned round about by the angels of God (1st Peter 1:5). Praise His wonderful name . . . Feb. 26th: The sound of distant firing. Feb. 27th: The man with the intestines out died. He had no noticeable pulse when they brought him in yesterday by stretcher from the Tangtou front. I can still see him lying there. Some one had put a towel containing a few candies and a hard yellow pear at his feet. It lay untouched. He was feverish and yellow. The wound was enormous and his bowels lay in a dirty pile in the hollow where his abdomen used to be. Automatically he would reach out to feel the wound and each time a Red Cross attendant would grab his hand. He was almost gone then, but his eyes were still open and he kept whispering, "Ch'a, ch'a" (water, water). Dr. Harding said that another like him came in this a.m. with two holes in his stomach instead of just one."

During these days our foreign group was separated, one person for each of the south, hospital, women's hostel and church compounds. Refugees were coming in for shelter. Martial law was strictly enforced from 6:30 p.m. to mid-morning at 9:30. Soldiers of the "40th" and the "59th" Armies filled the city and the villages round about. Then Tangtou was lost; and Elder Cheng, our former high school teacher, was killed.

On Sunday afternoon, March 13th, we were awakened from afternoon rest with the sound of shells exploding close by. Smoke was rising from the east of the river at a village on the highway. The first attack on the city had come. Yellow Hill was being shelled. A detachment of "40th" Army—they were holding that side of the river while the "59th" was north and west of the city—men and horses with supplies and light field pieces, skirted the west foot of the hill while shells fell above them and in the sand at the edge of the river. Striking quickly the Chinese turned this attack into a retreat. The smoke of burning villages clouded the eastern horizon by day; fire glowed in the darkness of the night.

Refugees soon stampeded in from the east. They brought bags of grain, animals, chickens, geese, pet birds in cages, antiquated and toothless patriarchs and matriarchs of the family, and all the possessions they could carry on a donkey's back, a carrying pole or a wheel-barrow. Miss Winslett writes of the crowding in the compounds: "In Miss Small's residence there were 49 in the living room, uncountables in the dining room, a family of 6 in the butler's pantry, 3 families in the kitchen, one in the down-stairs hall, and an unnumbered multitude in the upstairs and basement. The yard was decorated with five shacks to hold the overflow. One is like the top of a covered wagon, made of straw mats of course, and low on the ground. It houses two old ladies and does pretty well until it rains."

On March 16th the city was severely bombed. The Catholics were almost in the center of it. Five of their refugees were killed. The south suburb was spared, spared everything except the anxiety of not knowing but what we would get our "sorrow" next.

March 21st the first major thrust for Ichowfu started. The artillery roared for days. The Chinese soldiers were in well constructed covered trenches which ran east from the river and then south to encircle the main approaches of highways running into Ichow from that direction. An anti-tank trench cut across fields and highways from the east to the River. Across the channels and sand banks of the River were felled trees of enormous proportions tied together with heavy wire to stop any approach to the city by boats. Graves were hollowed out and machine-guns installed. Roads were mined. Mr. Wilson's journal at this time reads:

> "March 22nd: Soldiers are moving back and forth along the auto road. Artillery fire is shaking the house. It sounds less than a mile away. In the

morning there are four alarms. Bombs are dropped over the village of Nantan (⅓ mile south) and along the sand dunes. In the p.m. the planes circle the area of the fighting, Tushutou (Tushuchen) about 2½ miles north of the bridge. The artillery fire has gone on and on. There is almost the continual staccato of Chinese machine-gun fire. The light Czech "Bren", machine-gun is proving deadly. Every eight to ten men have one. We do not know what tonight or tomorrow holds for us. God knows, and I know that He has a perfect plan for His redeemed ones. There has been a constant line of pack animals moving up from the south. I can see bags of flour and boxes of ammunition. There are Christians praying alternately all night long in the church.

"One of the Christian boys of the "40th" said that when the Japanese had passed through a certain village a few days ago the group he was with found some canned goods and cookies in a deserted house with a note saying, 'To some Christian Chinese. I am a Christian Japanese and I do not want to fight in this war'. This boy, whose name was Lee, came to the south compound asking someone to pray with him for he had to return to the front that night. Some women sewed his cotton padded trousers which had been cut in many places by bullets . . . March 23rd: Terrific bombing and heavy gun fire around Tushutou at 10:45 a.m. . . . 12:15, Lunch in peace: God's keeping through another morning . . . Chinese machine-gun emplacements going in between Miss Hand's yard and our's. We have dug a tunnel under the road to serve as a way of communication between the two yards when under fire. With earth towering on top it makes a decent bomb cellar . . . 5:00 p.m. Time for prayer meeting. Heavy guns shatter the air . . . March 24th: Bell rings for 6:00 a.m. church prayers. Air alarm! Another! More at 10:45, 11:15 and 11:34. Miss Winslett says this last is the 6th visitation from the planes this morning. 7-8 bombs dropped on the sand dunes, 1500 feet east. 12:20 another alarm . . . Lunch in peace. Miss Hand says: 'Radio report last night said soothsayers in Peiping have been busy. People want to know where relatives have fled' . . . 1:15 p.m. more alarms. 2:15 alarm. I run to the hospital basement. Planes circle steadily over our heads. Nothing happens and people begin to come out of dugouts like ground hogs coming out for sun. The all-clear signal sounds, followed in a half minute by terrific banging on the bells. Three pursuits come from the north with three monoplanes coming from the west — big bombers again as on the 16th. They let go fully 30-40 bombs. It is 3:45 p.m. Smoke billows up from the city. Shelling begins close by. Apparently the bombing was a signal. Shells are bursting west of the river—where we picnic—just over the brick kilns. Mr. Mu of the post office shouts as he goes by that there is a lot of American mail just in from Tsinan. (The marvel of this postal system. Letters coming when the shells are dropping only a few hundred yards away.) Heavy bombardment begins at 5:30 p.m. From the hospital east porch we can see the shells bursting in a line of red flame and brownish smoke. All the river-front is being drubbed. The heaviest is 4 li north at Chaho, the fork of the river. An attempt is being made to cross the river there. (Later heard that some 30 men got across only to meet death when the rest turned back. They couldn't stand the driving storm of machine-gun bullets.) . . . 6:45 p.m. the shelling is more general with the city and south suburb coming in for a share. Heavily armed troops are moving in groups around the outside of our compounds. They expect an attack. The motor of the military radio putt-putts. It is only 400 feet to the west in one of the big cloth store yards. At night it sounds like approaching planes and twice alarms have been spread. (Dated Tsinan, March 24, a Domei article read: 'Placing itself in a position for a final thrust at Lini, the only remaining Chinese stronghold in southeastern Shantung, a strong Japanese column yesterday afternoon occupied Tushuchen (Tushutou) 8 klms. northeast of their goal. (Note. It was

a matter of common information among the Chinese military at Ichowfu that the Japanese were scheduled to take Ichow on the 25th of the month, march down the Taierchuang highway, join up with the divisions which had taken Tenghsien on the 16th, Lincheng on the 17th, Tsaochuang on the 18th, and Yihsien the night of the 19th, and with this combination from the east and west storm Taierchuang.) . . . The fall of Tushuchen, Japanese military authorities here claimed, "Spelled the doom of Lini.') March 25th: . . . Shells whining overhead. A bomb strikes the south compound 15 feet from flag. No one hurt. Man escaping bomb takes Christ as Saviour . . . 5:30 p.m. Chinese military guarantee to respect our neutrality . . . "

"Sunday March 27th: Quiet. The soldiers have all left the suburb. Answered prayer; Only local men guard the gates. Blessed quiet . . . But soon shelling begins again — this time from the west. It is 12-15 li out they say. We hear explosions in the city. Planes come but drop no bombs. March 28th: Heavy fighting to the west. Seems at the west gate. March 29th: Heavy fighting continues in west . . . Church session examines 105 inquirers among the refugees. All but a few are from the city. Night—Villages burning in the west. The sky is bright. March 30th: More inquierers examined. Sound of guns is lighter. Rumor of another engagement and retreat. Word has come of fighting at Jihchao and Taolu."

In the days of April which followed more refugees came, mostly from the west. They had been driven from village to village. The Mengs said: "We grabbed what we could of our bedding and fled through the south gate of the village of Lee, as the enemy came in the north gate." Wealthy widow Liu said: "The boys had to leave their bicycles and take up poles to carry the pots and pans and what we could snatch of our bedding. Villages were burning all around us."

Sunday the 17th — Easter — we were heavily bombed and shelled. Monday came and it was plain that the Chinese were giving ground. Tuesday morning reports were that in the night the city wall had been scaled at the northwest corner. At 10:40 a.m. the main body of Chinese troops and thousands of civilians, a hodge-podge running, shouting, walking with babies, dogs, animals, bicycles and rickshas went by our compound walls. Planes came and machine-gunned one lot half-way between the south compound and Nantan (1/3 miles south). Though other soldiers moved into the city and fought until dusk the city had already been lost. Tuesday evening April 19th Ichowfu came under the Rising Sun and Five bar flags.

SPRING! All was not easy following the occupation of the city. Death had swept the streets of all living souls. Fire burned up to the very gates of the mission. Our people could not venture out. Nearly 2000 filled the yards and fully one third of these had come in without sufficient food; many had fled from burning villages or bombed sections of the city with nothing in their hands. These had to eat. The grain reserve of those who had come with stores was soon low; even so, many of them shared with the starving ones. Within a week of the day the city fell the missionaries sought permission to go into the destroyed and burning city with Chinese helpers to salvage grain, fuel and cloth. Day followed day with groups moving from one desolation to another seeking grain or burying dead in the company of a missionary carrying an American flag. Hand to mouth was the living during April and May. In three great parties missionaries later escorted 500 of the needy to safe distances from the city where they spread out to seek relatives or friends or simply "beg" in the villages which had not suffered. But June came and brought with it the finest wheat crop in many years. Miss Hand wrote: "There is grain in abundance now. What the people need more than anything else is houses. They have no homes to which they can return." Fully 60 per cent of the city and 80 per cent of the south suburb had been bombed or burned and looted?

May 9th Mr. Wilson drove the station car to Tsingtao over the military highway (two days earlier it would have been impassable for rains, two days later for cutting by the Guerilla troops.) Telegrams were sent out informing Miss Small in Pei-

ping and Mr. Woodberry in the country field of Tengchow, that they could go in to Ichowfu. At 5:45 a.m. on May 24th they set out. It took 10 days for them to travel by cart what Mr. Wilson had traveled in 12 hours, but God used those days for His glory. Villagers along the war torn way came out to meet the party to inquire of Christ and to invite them to stay overnight in their villages. They finally arrived in Ichowfu on June 3rd. On June 12th Dr. Harding and Miss Hand boarded carts for Tsingtao.

June 26th, Miss Small writes: "One of the liveliest spots in a city of desolation and fear is the kindergarten with 24 enrolled." (Many more were asking to attend.) Mr. Woodberry writes of visits to churches in the country field and tells how God wonderfully kept them during the period of the war. From what was a cold, backslidden church—one of the very oldest bodies of believers in all the field—he sends word dated June 30th: "200 to 300 are meeting nightly for worship. We are nearly out of tracts and Bibles." Miss Winslett, in her inimitable way, tells the following: "The other evening Chang-Ta-K'o came to put in my hand $17.00 to be spent for any need here. He said he had made $200.00 selling medicines the week before and wanted to give his tenth at once. ($3.00 he had already given to young people's work among the refugees.) He said: 'I used to give a dollar, but this war has taught me that it is not enough. Now I'm going to tithe all I make and tithe it at once.' We have our troubles some days, the clash of personalities . . . One night there was an epidemic of them. One Taoist priest taking refuge on the compound was called to account after a night of noisy, drunken revelry and fighting. The leaders told him that another instance of the same and he would have to leave. He was covered with shame and confusion from the top of his neat topknot, his darling, an oasis in the desert expanses of his shaven head, down to his bare feet in rusty slippers; the great height and breadth and girth of him were all shame. He heard the warning and said he wanted to "hui kai" (repent). Then he asked, 'If I believe in Jesus, will I have to cut off my little queue?' Mrs. Ch'in (one of the leaders) replied very wisely, 'No, you won't have to cut it off, but you will want to, if you believe in Jesus.' Yesterday he cut it off and was child-like in his sense of adventure and freedom and new faith, and at evening prayers he stood up and made confession of faith in Christ. Pray for him. It was a great day for him and for us. Hearts are open and many are ready to come to a decision for Christ."

"Blesséd are the eyes that see Him,
Blest the ears that hear His voice;
Blesséd are the souls that trust Him
And in Him alone rejoice;
His commandments
Then become their happy choice."

One year is past. The God who took Israel through the waters of the Sea is still living. The Shepherd who led the Psalmist David through the Valley still guards His flock. He is the same; Unchanging are His Promises. He is sovereign; He is Wonderful-Immanuel! With unspeakable joy and peace we send this letter as a witness of what our God has done, and is doing.

"We expect a bright to-morrow;
All will be well.
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
"All, all is well."
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying,
Or in living or in dying,
All must be well."

Sincerely yours in His Grace and Mercy,

Printed by James McMullan & Co., Ltd., Chefoo, N. China.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
TSINGTAO, CHINA

Aug 13, 1937.

Dearest Mumsie + all,

I want to mail a letter to you this eve. — Am out at the Huk with Martha W. for a few days — I simply do not know where the days have gone — but each one has been full to the brim — Each day brings news + many rumors of war situations but in spite of all as you are likely watching papers war seems lighting up + nearer + nearer — We are heart torn over Shanghai + reports of fighting there today. Chiang's crack troops gone down but there may be not so much chance except for their being fodder for guns — for the 35 boats in harbor could just shell all city — The Abbotts are here + Emily R. We were talking that world is surely back in the dark ages — only with all of the arms much more dangerous to itself!

We've had one day of play + relaxing change. Came out last nite — supper down on the rocks by sea was lovely. Today I had 16 guests at a Chinese restaurant + it was quite successful — very nice food — 4 six courses

Margaret Windett — that her mother is here. She just loves Chinese food — had to have a fork. + I thought of you + our choice food in N.Y., Betty Turner + Harriett S, you recall are here for a month. Betty Tillotson for nearly 1½ years is much better — the Lutheran woman died with ten days in Kiaochow, Mrs. Rheinbreldt, the family here + the niece of Mrs. Mateer just out from U.S. By one great effort last Tues. Miss Law + I got a nice meal for 8 guests — so now I feel a bit better. I've been to so many folks homes + now I've caught up a bit.

News from Peitaiho House party was a revelation of suffering of real Christians in Japan for the suffering caused to China + the realization that this war will eventually ruin Japan — Jews increased — unrest of the militarist regime —

A letter from Paotingfu from a missionary tells of a train stopping at a station, nearby was a munition car — Japan's aeroplanes dropped bombs on train — munition car exploded — killing 30 + 100 wounded — Still Japan makes major incidents out of affairs she instigates in secret — poor old world —

We are planning to go to the Lao Mts. for the day tomorrow + the Sunday. I'll go in having had 3 days of play; I want to go in for some time —

Good nite mumsie mine — just time for a wee bit tonight to let you know that we are safe + well + loving you + praying for you — nite-nite to all — Yours, Irene

No.

6 Lu Yang Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
Aug 21, 1937

Dear Ones + all:

I'm sure you are eager for mail so I'll try to get one a bit more direct to you than that going down to Shanghai. Mr. Terhune's brother-Donald is here & was expecting to be here all of August but doesn't want to be caught out here (he is a Dean of one of Columbia University Colleges) so leaves tomorrow by Nairn to Japan to wait for a boat there - he may mail this ~~coming~~ or take it to U.S. I do not know - but likely will reach you sooner anyway.

How our hearts are torn these days - war is just hell in essence no matter where or

2)
when only worse kill wet all rules
down as Japan has said she'd regard
neither schools nor hospitals!
+ besit — they have moved into
Shanghai Baptist College — fully
bombed + wantonly destroyed the
Nan Kai university in Tientsin.
Just now I'm provoked at
U.S. Japan gets in swings of
other nations + that cripples
China in defense. That Japanese
warships 2 guns within a
short distance of S Augusta U.S.
from after Chiers request
U.S. to move — for U.S. to stick
there + protect Japan (of
course she's within her rights
in International Settlement but
why be so stubborn + then
shoot if hit.) — of course
Chiers will be slowly bomb the Baptist College
Upon so they'd safer!
had more news than
we — all are proud of
China's resistance — but oh

3) the east in souls of men of Japan
China, & Japanese readily
told a lady I know that he (
a deep fine Christian) had a
double sorrow that of China's
suffering at Japan's hands & a
the recognition that in the end
Japan's methods would mean
the ruin of Japan - & many
many Christians there do not want
to fight but rejoice to say that
stirred that few get the real
facts, even a missionary had
to come to China last summer
to know of Japan terrible
drug & morphine & smuggling
here - naturally Japan
doesn't tell that at home
One has to keep a light shining
on heart - not to help
the people but to realize
that it is Satan using them

4) I should take the civil
service — but it's
volume of hate they have
stirred up in China these
these years. Mr. Lowrebury S.
said he'd lived thru eight
attacks by Japan on
China & never before has
there been the chance to pay
back! — of course the
natural man (in anyone)
wants to do that. It would
be really a great thing if
sometime a nation could be
so filled with faith that
they would literally turn
the other cheek and just see
the miracles God would
work out, I can't but
feel that in spite of all
of China's sins God is
fighting for justice & right
in these great air victories &

5] the holding back of evil as here in Tsingtao.

No.

) How long the days seem — each day with changes, and bringing over radios & eager & anxious ones, what future will bring. Some are staying on here unable to get to their stations, & others being sent out by their consuls tho some 50 still interned — not in danger now.

Well Tsingtao has thru these two weeks just been emptying itself out by trains & extra trains till it seems a dead city — Shops boarded up with only a little door open — Was a very small major city. — Food supplies still holding out, but not much coming in. — It surely makes

We feel that something is expected to happen at least but so far Wipe has all quiet & safe. There was a shooting incident on streets but it has passed over. So far,

Martha stayed just till Sunday. It was needed back in hospital at Wicklow. She went in not knowing what she'd face & to stay whatever came of, war or fighting till end. She was a proud to do it but everyone else would have done it too in her place. We were glad she'd had the feast at the Canteen restaurant & day at Lee mts - We got them all in. Now that restaurant is closed & road to Lee

11 Mts. barred!

Miss Hua + her mother are
No.
here for a few days - till
they see what is best to do.

Earl wrote me a note while
I was out with Betty Turner
at Huk, on Wed - asking
me to meet him down town nine
am. place is restricted to
their - Good joke on us
on missionary Hill to be included
in the restricted Korean +
Japanese headquarters where
the red light section is.
They want to avoid any incident
of any kind which would be
involving U.S. Last year a
sailor - under liquor - did
something to a Japanese flag
which took a lot of fixing up!

8] I have spent a lot of time
helping Mrs. Mateer who is
quite old. You may remember
her — she is retired of Wilson
Station — living here —
+ very ill. She was at Elda's
a few days + went (Miss Faut)
to bathe her + care for her.
I'm afraid she can't get well
but this isn't a very easy town
to be sick. Her nieces here
from U.S. but she has not had
much experience with sick
folks + it isn't easy for
her either.
Miss Faut sends her greeting
+ love, + Miss Faw too —
Nite-nite Tony I want to go
to inquire for Mrs. M. —
Do not worry about us
dear — In His care —
Lovingly, Irene

Dearest Mumsie Mine ,

There you see what I typist I am not , a m: take the very first. I have not had much time these weeks to do much with practise of the touch system so yerterday for those letters I went back to 'Hunt and peck' I wonder when I will ever learn the other but as long as I mamage I suppose I will. But I do not write accurately at all. Needless to say'.

Just a note this morning to get your letter sealed. I wonder what kind of news you a are getting. I hear one English radio, which is generally considered reliable, gave the report of 44 thousand Japanese soldiers a landing here , abd that Id was just as bad he as in Shanghai . This is false. So far we a are very peacsful and no Japanese soldiers h landed.

The Tokio reports are very much bias The Chinese are surely giving them a surprise

to saythe least in such stubborn resistance.

IT is all very horrible.

Am going to Chandlers for lunch + Mrs. Maleer's niece has asked some of us to go out for supper - We are hoping to get out to villages soon -

Much love dearest,

Aug 26. 1937, Irene

6 Tri Yang Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
September 2, 1937

Dearest Mumsie Min + all!

I fear there is a bust this a.m. anyway I'll hurry with a letter to get this in it — You'll likely see by the papers that Tsingtao at least isn't in trouble so you're not worried about me — more than you could help — all news we'll know going out by radio is that "Tsingtao was taken" You've heard maybe that Japanese are all leaving here, the consul left yesterday + a load yet to go. All feel that this eases this situation. Japanese have such valuable property here that they may lose it untouched. Anyway we are well + have food + supplies stores opened up some — much freer feeling thruout the place,

This week the Lord has been so good as always but we've been so conscious of His presence especially. Sun. a.m. I found out that the evangelist had gone from Chowchow to Soochow to take his family home. So we went in P.M. It had come to me so clearly to go out there the Sunday before but I'd argued it away - because the evangelist was there - then when we got there Sun. one woman, Mrs. Li said, We've been having no services & I've been praying about it & asking God where the foreign Miss Fans is — we were so glad we went - saw Mr. Sw - still so eager in her love to God — she was saying how lazy she'd been not to wake up to pray in the night!) Her faith & love just shame me.

Two non-Christians came in & were seemingly really interested - Mrs. Sis friends to whom she's witnessed — one was one of those who had vowed never to eat certain foods - meat,

If garlic, onions etc — if her husband's illness could be cured. She said he was just the same + she'd not found peace in it. We had a taxi to come for us + after meeting us + saw a car waiting. We hurried to get in when their stopped us — quite upset- He was waiting someone else + guess he thought these determined feminine bandits might overpower him! It was so funny! Then we couldn't find our car + started to walk. "The Master just never lets you down" — were said so often. The son of Christian came by on a bicycle + he went to car station for us to ask where our car was + came hurrying back to tell us that it was behind the temple at a crossroad + went on to get it for us. — Then we began to pray for a car - We'd been trying to rent one last week — Mon. a.m. Mr. Vaw called a Chinese (Mrs. Ling has two + She said we could use this small one until a Mr. Tei who just here claimed it + at most it would

3) be a hundred dollar value to him
So it is being done up now at the
garage — who knows we may be
able to run it a long while before
it goes to pieces or Mr. Fei wants it —
Suit that great! anyway it will
enable us to reach the nearby
villages before frost & while we
can't get interior till a little later.
We went another day to another village
& just at end of street it began to pour — here
we were utterly strange — never been there before
a woman said — "come in here" — We went into
a room, large room newly calcimined
with a table, Floyd just moved there & planned
to have a school later — We couldn't
have asked any more wonderful place —
compared with ordinary homes filled up —
Shutters now & then by standers to
come in to hear the preaching — so we knew we
could use it for preaching — A crowd
came in & it just poured — till we were
about three — a Christian young woman
recently moved there, came in with hot
water & tea cups for us to drink —

So again we vowed "let down" but wonderfully prepared for & avoided heard His message.

Stella & Hearn are here is a house across the street - eating with Pat's dear kid things are more sure interior. Stella sends her love.

I must go now to see Mrs. Mateer & were going this P.M. to some other village - so must hr wait more —

Lots of love, I didn't mean that Richard's changing disappointed me I knew they would but that the two didn't still look alike — that of course is mere sentiment — Now it is Richard on the right & Winifred on left in the snap. I'd have guessed the other way. Near old kids —

Bye + don't worry - please - -
just give us all the 1th's
)toads + care - - - -

Much love
Swats
Irene

Sept. 20. 1937

Dearest Mumsie:

I am just the limit, I never seem to have time to set down for a long visit. It is now 8:30 + I'm already sleepy but I want to hurry off a note anyway for I want you to get a letter even if it be a short one so you'll know that we are well + safe + all. These weeks are busy — seems to be my middle name. But I am grateful to have something to do. I surely am- I don't remember just when I wrote last but the little car had come at the last letter. That is surely a glory car + to that car — It hasn't been a very expensive letter — but I do love the Master's blessing surely — the old Dodge slipt + battery — the old was repaired again + will go. Last Sat when I took it in the

2] Russian mechanic, (who likes just a perfect machine) said "I don't drive this car" I said before I'd rather not have anything to do with it! I said "I've no money to buy — I need it to get to the villages — + I said you've no idea how much fun it has given everyone". "Yes, I can believe it is the butt of jokes at every place you go". "He went on to fix it up + at the end when I thanked him said, "Well, there is so little happiness in the world if my repairing this car will help to add happiness I'll do it." I'd be in trouble if he'd refuse to repair it for it takes some-one to know its "quirks". "Quirks" it has too — funny — sometimes it goes + some-times it doesn't — It drips oil in front wrong gaskets but he'd felt no worth changing + differential is cracked so I leave a little puddle of oil wherever I stand a while — This — made Dan call it "Drippy" + "dripsalater" a dozen names I've been given it. It is not at all as I am — a little low-thing that just holds us three.

3] Then three days it has just improved the — so much — (likely I have too in handling it!!) we've thoroughly enjoyed going in it & we've gone to the village beyond the Hub, where the rest chapel was rented last winter & back & over to see to eat lunch & it has been just such fun. We've gotten our more gypsy like these few days. Suddenly decide to take lunch — go to Hub store buy something & eat! It has been like vacation having it. I have a bit of Lord's money for it & Betty Turner & Harriet Strak (Huntington) left $20.00 for it. The Master has just blessed it!! The little car — at first ornaked a lot (but assured that it wouldn't burn up, but it make—) but it is better, heats less, & engine pulls better. Earl came in one & it wouldn't go so he kidded me that I didn't have a car! But Sat. he came in & got a pass to come to town so I took him out & tried in it & he was

4] surprised. It was nice that he could come - I'd had a big piece of pork given me & had roasted it. Had ~~fruit~~ that he liked & we enjoyed a supper tho he did have to get back to the patrial at 8 o'clock. Then Mrs Tan brought & took him out to the wharf. Their boat left to Manila with many women & any others who wished to go. They will be back at Oct 5. & make a trip to Kobe.

Marita was down over the week-end & it was nice to see her. She ~~took~~ gone back without vacation except for 2 or 3 days but she saved the hospital from a break up. Some of the new nurses left to enter a military hospital but the girls have stepped into the breach & done famously. She's begun nursing school now, & is grateful too to be doing her bit for China.

I'm surely disgusted with U.S.A. With the new rulings re government ships carrying

2] ammunition to neither Japan or China but merchant ships free to take to Japan + not China (because of blockade) surely is giving moral support to Japan! I can't believe that U.S. all approve! Where is the moral stamina of U.S. if Japan get by + not one say "Naughty Boy" The first fling to test foreign opinion of blockade of one port + then all of China + all meekly take it. Even pacifists believe in moral suasion + U.S. isn't pacifist, It looks as if China's government were about the only one in world attempting to go way of right + trying to uphold anything of right.

Are you expecting me from the govt order? At one meeting - Mr. Aspesel (Lutheran) asked the consul "If he did not go could not must single women who had work stay as long as he did" - I believe said "Yes". That gives me clear slate. Mrs. Mateer is in hospital + likely ill. I've told her as long as she's here I'll be here. Anyway [illegible] I do leave I

hope to be among the last. Earl has a suitcase of valuables + if I don't get anything else out of here - all right but if I can manage it I believe my place is here - I've seen results of "shipyard looting" - leaves a terrible botch!

I believe China's biggest need is now + such an opening as never before. We want to preach to the crowds getting paid off after Japan left of the mill hands + there was a real hunger + spirit of earnestness -

Good-nite, my dear one, I love you, + pray your a deep peace about me + just give me wholly to God + not worry.

Much love dear, to all

+ I love you,

Irene

6 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao, Sung
Sept 27, 1937.

Dearest Mumsie + all;

I wrote just a few days ago to you but I am not at all sure about when letters get off + how many you've had from me. I've tried to write often so you get one frequently even if short!

This has been a full day but a happy one — full of opportunities for Him! This a.m. word came from the head of the social bureau that they'd be paying again at Sow Tang, our suburban church. See the Japanese have all left Tsingtao — sealed up their mills + left them in care of the government but they left with their payrolls not cleared off. The agent here asked them for wages + they gave $70,000. to the

social welfare bureau & they've called the people to come for their money. I must have explained this in a former letter tho, as I have been to these groups many times this fall. We know the head of the head of the bureau & he has borrowed two rooms next the street & the church courtyard at Sen tang to pay off folks but it brings great crowds to go into the church & sit down to hear. It has been a remarkable opportunity sometimes to speak to several hundreds in a day. Each day they change. They come from all over the countryside & will go back home to villages who have Christians & some who have'nt. The Saturday Times recently had an editorial commenting on the strange situation of any enemy country leaving up its valuable property & leaving it to the honour of China while it goes off to other parts of China & perhaps property just under a barbarian

2) fashion.) Here chinese guards carefully guard
~~that property + law Spent~~ $3000 to make a
tower to watch more carefully!

) Horrors! At Japan — my what a
) hell they are making of china —
Radio just told of a Japanese sinking
a ~~Chinese~~ passenger boat — the german
"Slamhurst" picked up the few survivors several
tens — who had floated in the sea
4 or 5 days.) Destroyed big chemical plant
in Nanking — which makes fertilizer
Hospitals, schools, refugees camps, trains,
— are their specialties!
I'm so disgusted with U.S. the weak
attitude + then the Nanking Ambassor
to run off hours before the time limit
set for bombing — while there were citizens
still there — yellow + at all
things. To U.S. bound in secret treaty
to Japan — Where has the moral sense
of world gone! I've been ashamed
to be an american these days!

The pity of it —— China has always
had her so high but now they
can't understand. Sung Mei Li appealed
to Britian for Red Cross. Why not to
U.S.? Where is any moral protest
to such barbarities — Maybe will just
not seem it but it couldn't have
been very strong or we'd surely know
of it. Canton bombing — civilian
+ 2000 —— beggared words to describe
its horrors ——. Before long it will
be all the world + may become
soon —— to end it!

Heaven's well + I'm too has
had all quiet business places opening
+ people returning. Just a note until
tomorrow another day! Today a.m. out
to Sutang + P.M. little car to Chan's Lan
M.D. Mater a low time today but better this
evening. The Master has given me a new
power + freedom to preach to non-Christians
It is a wondrous new joy. I think this is
one of loveliest things for foreigners to do effectively —
Pray for it at please —— Write dear, much love

Nite Oct 5-37

Dear Mumsie;

It just comes to me that I can send a note by the Canopus which leaves for Kobe to connect with the Pres. ~~Patterson~~ + get a letter to you quite directly! Earl won't able to get off tonite but Pete one of his pals is at Ruth's so he can take it on board + mail it there! Sorry I didn't think earlier! Now I'll just have to slash off something but anyway it will be a comfort to you to get a letter + know that we are all safe + well + going every day our in the little car to villages + busy as can be at the job! I got two letters this

last week + it was good after some delay. Mails were held up in Shanghai I guess.

I'm glad you're not worrying! Please do not! There is no occasion at all to [illegible] especially. I'm not going into interior for the present - now + were very safe + well + hearts at rest - from personal security. I just pray that you'll have assurance already in your heart, a letter from Warren came with the picture from you at the same time, Warren's expression is a study! His worldly glory + travel hasn't brought him peace + happiness! Glad for the picture shots! Do you wish me to return it?

maybe I can add a bit more—
I do not hear him going. I'll
miss Earl's letter for you —
I'm watching news — it changes
here so fast.. I'm a bit happier
our U.S. attitudes but I don't want
you to worry over that —

Bye dear ones I must get
Keep his watch — late on board
that would be unreasonable

Much much love to.

to Ruth also

Irene